

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming
2 comprising:
3 retrieving digital media content from a library;
4 storing in the media content for subsequent playback; and
5 storing a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of
6 media content is automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a
7 user's predetermined specifications.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media
2 content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically
3 changing particular audio content.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing a subset of the media
2 content further comprises the steps of:
3 determining a selected segment length;
4 determining a selected particular media content; and
5 storing a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device
6 having a length of the selected segment length.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media
2 content comprises automatically storing a most recent episode in a series of episodes.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media
2 content further comprises the steps of:
3 determining an media program having a series of episodes;
4 retrieving a particular episode in the series of episodes; and
5 retrieving an episode subsequent to the particular episode when the particular
6 episode has been consumed.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media
2 content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment from a series of audio
3 content having multiple segments.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media
2 content further comprises the steps of:
3 selecting a segment of the media content;
4 storing a portion of the media content in a playback device;
5 determining an amount of the portion of the media content consumed, if any; and
6 storing a subsequent portion of the media content corresponding to the amount of
7 the portion of media content consumed in the playback device.

1 9. An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming
2 comprising:
3 means for retrieving digital content from a library;
4 means for storing in the content for subsequent playback; and
5 means for storing a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the
6 subset of media content is automatically selected to update consumed media content
7 according to a user's predetermined specifications.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the
2 content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment of a
3 dynamically changing particular content.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the step of storing a subset of the
2 content further comprises:

3 means for determining a selected segment length;
4 means for determining a selected particular content; and
5 means for storing a segment of the selected particular content in the playback
6 device having a length of the selected segment length.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the
2 content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent episode in a series of

3 episodes.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the
2 content further comprises:

3 means for determining an program having a series of episodes;

4 means for retrieving a most recent episode in the series of episodes; and

5 means for storing the most recent episode in a playback device.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the
2 content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment in a static
3 content.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the
2 content further comprises:

3 means for selecting a static content;

4 means for storing a portion of the static content in a playback device;

5 means for determining an amount of the portion of the static content consumed, if

6 any; and

7 means for storing a subsequent portion of the static content corresponding to the

8 amount of the portion of static content consumed in the playback device.

1 17. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of
2 sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by a

3 processor, cause the processor to:

4 retrieve digital media content from a library;

5 store the media content for subsequent playback; and

6 store a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of
7 media content is automatically selected to provide media content according to a user's
8 predetermined specifications.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to
3 automatically store a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular media
4 content.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:
3 determine a selected segment length;
4 determine a selected particular media content; and
5 store a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device
6 having a length of the selected segment length.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to
3 automatically store a most recent episode in a series of episodes.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:
3 determine an media program having a series of episodes;
4 retrieve a most recent episode in the series of episodes; and
5 store the most recent episode in a playback device.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to
3 automatically store a most recent segment in a static media content.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:
3 select a static media content;
4 store a portion of the static media content in a playback device;
5 determining an amount of the portion of the static media content consumed, if any; and
6 store a subsequent portion of the static media content corresponding to the amount
7 of the portion of static media content consumed in the playback device.

1 24. An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming
2 comprising:
3 a library access device that provides access to a library;
4 a storage device coupled to the library access device that stores content retrieved
5 from the library; and

6 a playback device having a memory and an interface coupled to the storage
7 device;
8 wherein the playback device stores a selected content that is a subset of the
9 content stored by the storage device, and further wherein the selected content is
10 determined automatically based on predetermined user content selections.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is a personal
2 computer.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is an Internet
2 terminal.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is a dedicated
2 audio library access device.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the storage device is an optical disc.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the storage device is a flash memory.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the playback device memory
2 comprises flash memory.